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DESIGN NEW CZECHOSLOVAK COAL COMBINE

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A contest for the submission of designs for a coal combine was made public in Czechoslovakia in January 1952. A new combine suitable for use in low, narrow seams was necessary because most of the coal seams in the Ostrava coal field are less than one meter thick. The Soviet-made Donbass combine [currently in use] is suitable for selected seams 0.90 to 1.30 meters thick.

As a result of the contest, a team of miners submitted a suggestion for manufacturing a combine which could be used in seams 0.40 to 0.80 meters thick. Their efforts resulted in the production of a prototype of the Ostravan 500 combine. The new combine is driven by two independent motors, with a transmission box to drive the chains and auger arms; it also has a loading attachment.

Tests conducted between 31 December 1952 and the end of January 1953 showed that the Ostravan 500 had a maximum speed of 1.5 meters per minute, frontal advance, while its average speed was only 0.5 to one meter per minute. The combine is currently undergoing additional tests to determine which materials should be used in its production. However, the new combine will undoubtedly speed up mining operations in thin seams, regardless of any changes which may have to be made in its design.

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